

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00991 201000Z

44

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

AF-10 IO-14 DLOS-06 /158 W
----- 100294

R 200925Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHIA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR,UK, IO, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES ON DIEGO GARCIA
EXTENSION

REF: CANBERRA 0821 (NOTAL)

1. IN POST MORTEM WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION CANBERRA
FEB 15 ON AUSTRALIAN REACTIONS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIEGO
GARCIA EXTENSIONS (REFTEL), WE AGREED THAT AUSTRALAIN
OFFICIAL REACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE AND THAT PRESS
REACTIONS HAD BEEN RATHER HELPFUL, IN GENERAL.

2. HOWEVER, BITISH NOTE THAT KEWAL SINGH, SECRETARY
OF INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL VISIT
AUSTRALIA FEB 27 TO MARCH 2 AND NEW ZELAND SHORTLEY
THEREAFTER. BRITISH COMMISSION IN DELHI HAS REPORTED
IN TELEGRAM TO LONDON, REPEATED TO CANBERRA, THAT INDIAN
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PRESS OF FEB 14, APPARENTLY ON BASIS OF OFFICIAL

BRIEFING, REPORTS THAT KEWAL SINGH WILL REVIEW WITH AUSTRALIANS WAYS AND MEANS OF "KEEPING INDIAN OCEAN FREE FROM BIG-POWER NAVAL RIVALRY." SINGH WILL REPORTEDLY DISCUSS WITH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENTS JOINT STRATEGY BY LITTORAL STATES OF INDIAN OCEAN (NEW ZEALAND, OF COURSE, IS EASILY 3000 MILES FROM INDIAN OCEAN) TO PERSUADE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO ABANDON ALLEGED PLAN TO CONVERT DIEGO GARCIA INTO "FULLY-FLEDGED AMERICAN NAVAL AND AIR BASE." BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN DELHI QUOTES INDIAN PRESS AS STAGING THAT INDIA WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY -"TAKE SEVERAL OTHER INITIATIVES TO MOBILIZE OPINION OF THE COUNTRIES SURROUNDING THE INDIAN OCEAN AGAINST THE PROPOSED BASE."
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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